

Sept. 19, 1957

INUAD

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, SEPTEMBER 19, 1957.

The Board of Public Works met in the office of the Governor, Mathieson Building, Baltimore, Maryland, on Thursday, September 19, 1957, at 3:00 p.m. (EDT)

There were present:

Theodore R. McKeldin, Governor
J. Millard Tawes, Comptroller
Hooper S. Miles, Treasurer.

Also present were:

Mr. James J. O'Donnell, Director, Department of Public Improvements.
Mr. Ellsworth Reigle, for the Department of Budget and Procurement.
Attorney General C. Ferdinand Sybert.

CONSTRUCTION:

The Board was advised by Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Reigle that in all of the items submitted and recommended to the Board where payment is to be made from the proceeds of the following bond issues:

General Construction Loan of 1953
General Construction Loan of 1954
General Construction Loan of 1955

General Construction Loan of 1956, and
General Construction Loan of 1957,

that full regard was had to the provisions of Section 7 of each of the following laws pertaining to the above construction loans:

Chapter 780 of the Acts of 1953, as amended
by Chapter 7 of the Acts of 1954,
Chapter 45 of the Acts of 1954,
Chapter 266 of the Acts of 1955,
Chapter 98 of the Acts of 1956, and
Chapter 532 of the Acts of 1957,

said Section 7 reading as follows:

"And Be It Further Enacted, That no department, board, commission, agency or institution specified or named in this Act shall begin any work with funds secured pursuant to the provisions of this Act unless satisfactory assurances are made to the Board of Public Works that the work described in the individual items in this Act can be completed with the funds specified for each such item respectively."

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION:

Dr. L. Eugene Cronin, Director of the Department of Research and Education, discussed with the Board his request of September 10, 1957, to the Department of Budget and Procurement, which request was first presented to the Board at its meeting of September 16, 1957, for permission to dispose of the boat, the "Commodore", and to use the proceeds for the purpose of converting and equipping the Army boat, previously known as J-3488, into a research vessel - as fully set forth in the letter of the department dated September 10, 1957.

The Board approved the request for permission to dispose of the vessel "Commodore" to the high bidder, in the amount of \$3,270.00. The Board also approved the use of these funds for the purpose of converting and equipping the Army boat mentioned above.

LEASES:

The Board approved execution of lease between the Public Service Commission of Maryland and The Munsey Building Company, for offices 1701-1731, inclusive, and a storage room in the sub-basement, in the Munsey Building, Baltimore, for a term of one year and six months from January 1, 1958, at an annual rental of \$18,000.00, this lease having been authorized at the meeting of August 19, 1957.

STATE OFFICE BUILDINGS:

1- The Secretary submitted to the Board a letter received from Attorney General C. Ferdinand Sybert, dated September 10, 1957, relative to the matter of office space for The State Law Department, reading as follows:

"All of us in the State Law Department feel that this Department should continue to occupy its present quarters on the 12th floor of the Mathieson Building and not be moved to the new State Office Building when it is completed.

"Most of our work is with the courts and with lawyers, and I hardly need to point

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(State Office Bldgs.)

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"out that this office is now in the center of the legal community of Baltimore. We are one block from the Baltimore City Court House and two blocks from the Federal Court, and the Mathieson Building undoubtedly houses more lawyers than any other building in Baltimore. At any rate, we are conveniently located to just about all of the office buildings housing lawyers in Baltimore.

"A great deal of our time would be wasted if we were moved to the new Office Building. No doubt we would have to maintain a messenger service in order to get papers to the courts and to serve documents on other lawyers, and would have to make frequent use of taxicabs for the constant appearance of our personnel in the various courts, with consequent substantial loss of time and additional cost to the State. These things are not necessary in our present location.

"Another extremely compelling reason exists for not requiring our Department to occupy the new State Office Building. I understand it is contemplated that the Retirement Systems will occupy the balance of the same floor allotted to the State Law Department, and that due to the expansion of the Retirement Systems it has already been found that the space allotted to them will not be sufficient. Leaving the State Law Department in the Mathieson Building and turning over some or all of its tentative space in the new building to the Retirement Systems would solve this difficulty."

"In addition, I have carefully inspected the floor plan of that part of the new Office Building tentatively allotted to the Law Department. The contemplated space is entirely inadequate and would not lend itself to efficient operation of the Department, as does our present office. Also it does not allow for expansion of the Department which, in view of the increasing volume of State legal business, must be expected."

The Attorney General, who was present at the meeting, discussed at length the reasons why he felt the Department should be located in the downtown area, convenient to the Baltimore City Court House and the many lawyers who have business with the Department.

After a discussion between the members of the Board and Attorney General Sybert, the Board voted to approve the request that the State Law Department be not required to locate in the new State Office Building, in Baltimore, but that it be continued in the downtown area as requested. Governor McKeldin voted against the request, while the Comptroller and the State Treasurer voted in favor of it. (Also, D.P.I. item 50).

- 2- The Board further approved the request of the State Treasurer that the offices maintained by him in the downtown area of Baltimore City be continued, rather than moved into the new State Office Building. (Also, D.P.I. item 50).
- 3- Baltimore - The Board approved Item 48 of the agenda of the Department of Public Improvements, in which was submitted Change Order, in the amount of \$360,728.00, to contract with Blake Construction Company, Inc., for the furnishing and erection of movable metal partitions in the Baltimore State Office Building. Fee is applicable to Fisher, Nes, Campbell & Associates, and to The L. P. Kookken Company. Payment is to be made from Item 1-General Construction Loan of 1952. The original contract was approved February 11, 1957.
- 4- Annapolis -
 - a. The Board again considered Item 9 of the agenda of the Department of Public Improvements, which was submitted for the meeting held September 16, 1957, and after a full discussion of the matter, approved the installation of a central dial switchboard system in the new Annapolis State Office Building, which will permit State Departments to be reached by the same number, and will allow interdepartmental calls to be made by merely dialing the particular number combinations.
 - b. The Board approved execution of a Change Order, in the amount of \$9,500.00, CREDIT, to the contract with Blake Construction Company, Inc., in connection with the construction of the Annapolis State Office Building(new). This credit will revert to Item 3-General Construction Loan of 1957. Fee is applicable to Harder and Dressel. The original contract was approved April 8, 1957. This matter was submitted as Item 49 of the agenda of the Department of Public Improvements for September, covering necessary partitions for the office building.

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STATE TAX COMMISSION:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from the State Tax Commission, dated September 19, 1957, reading as follows:

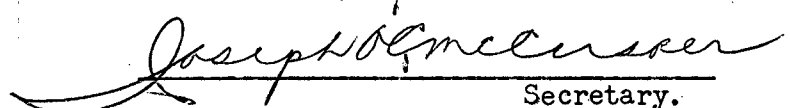
"On September 1, 1957, Mr. H. Gerard Mueller, Chief Supervisor of Assessments in this office, resigned his position and accepted retirement benefits under the State Employees Retirement System. Chapter 774 of the Acts of 1957 removed this position from the Merit System, which has the effect of placing the power of appointing Mr. Mueller's successor in the hands of the State Tax Commission. The Commission has given careful consideration to filling the vacancy, but is of the opinion that it will be impossible to do so with competent personnel at the low salary range existing for the position, namely, \$6,226 minimum to \$7,441 maximum, particularly so in view of the legislative revision of all assessors' salaries as set forth in Chapter 514 of the Acts of 1957. This law classified all of the counties and Baltimore City insofar as the top assessors' salaries are concerned, in Classes A to E, both inclusive, with minimum and maximum salaries ranging for the smaller counties from \$5,000 to \$6,000 to the top classification of \$10,500 to \$12,500, which applies to Baltimore City. Inasmuch as the employee in this position is required to supervise the work of the supervisors of assessments in the various counties and the Director of the Department of Assessments in Baltimore City, it is the opinion of the Commission that the salary for the position should be adjusted commensurate with the top salary provided for in this law, namely Scale No. 35 as established by the Standard Salary Board - \$10,376 minimum - \$12,451 maximum.

"The Commission is of the opinion that an emergency exists within the purview of Chapter 396 of the Acts of 1957 and respectfully requests approval from the Board of Public Works to specifically authorize the Standard Salary Board to review the salary of the said position and to readjust it in a manner that will enable the Commission to fill the position with qualified personnel. As the position is most essential to attaining uniform assessments throughout the State, we urge you to bring the matter to the attention of the Board at your earliest opportunity."

The Board approved the situation as outlined in the letter of the State Tax Commission as an emergency and authorized consideration of the request by the Commission of Personnel and by the Standard Salary Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Secretary.